



**Address:**  
PO Box 7871  
Madison, WI 53707-7871  
[www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov](http://www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov)

**Dawn Marie Sass**  
**State Treasurer of Wisconsin**

**Office of the State Treasurer**  
Phone: 608/267-7977  
Fax: 608/266-2647  
E-Mail: [unclaim@ost.state.wi.us](mailto:unclaim@ost.state.wi.us)

January 26, 2009  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Eva Robelia, Office of the State Treasurer, 608-261-2159

## **Wisconsin Treasurer to Auction Abandoned Jewelry and Watches**

Today, Wisconsin State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass is auctioning more than \$10,000 worth of jewelry and watches on eBay.

"An auction is both an exciting and poignant event," said Treasurer Sass. "I would prefer to have the rightful owner or heir come forward and be reunited with their heirloom, but after several years of abandonment, my office has to auction off the items in the vault due to capacity constraints."

Among the current items up for auction are a pair of antique diamond and Colombian emerald pierced earrings, an art deco 14 karat white gold necklace with an Amethyst pendant, several jeweled pins and brooches, eight pocket watches and much more.

Each year, the Wisconsin State Treasurer's Office receives the contents of safe deposit boxes from banks and other financial institutions that have been abandoned for at least five years. The names of the contents' owners are published in local newspapers and entered into Wisconsin's Unclaimed Property online database. The contents are then stored in the state's vault for at least three more years.

If the owners or their heirs do not come forward to claim the contents, the Treasurer's Office holds an auction of the contents. The proceeds from the sale are held for the rightful owners or heirs for an indefinite length of time.

"The exciting part of the auction is the potential for the forgotten item to have a second chance at life and make new memories," said Treasurer Sass.

The auction starts today, Monday, January 26, 2009 at noon (CST) on eBay and ends the following Monday, February 2, 2009. You can access the auction by visiting the State Treasurer's website and clicking on the eBay logo.

To find out if you or a relative might have unclaimed property, search Wisconsin's Unclaimed Property database at [www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov](http://www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov).

--END--